

# Aboriginal Education School

## District No. 62

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January 2012

Fall and Winter

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## Our Vision, Mission, and Values

**VISION**—The Aboriginal Education Team, comprised of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, believe that through our actions today, our children will be proud to see their culture integrated and respected within schools, community and society. We believe they will become academically and socially successful, proud leaders in their communities.

**MISSION**—The Aboriginal Education Team commits to work for Aboriginal students in an accountable way in order to nurture, support, mentor and teach students to take pride in their culture, their history and their traditions..

**VALUES**—As an Aboriginal Education Team, we believe that personal integrity, honesty, respect and inclusiveness are essential to our work with students, parents, community members, teachers, administrators and each other.

### **Aboriginal Languages**

Below are the three words for thank you for our three island nations:

Hych'ke -  
Coast Salish

Kleco kleco -  
Nuu-chah-nulth

Gilakasla -  
Kwakwaka'  
wakw

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# Department News

As the department looks forward to a busy year in 2012, it is nice to reflect on the fall news. Our district's graduations rates have increase to 72.9 percent and we welcome the result as one of the highest for Aboriginal graduations in the province. The Aboriginal Education Agreement assists in helping focus initiatives in classrooms for Aboriginal students. The Aboriginal Education Agreement has also assisted on building relationships with our Aboriginal communities and how we support students toward graduation. The district is pleased the work today in schools and over the years are showing results.

## Family Fall Gathering

The Family Fall Gathering hosted at Hans Helgesen Elementary School by the Aboriginal Education in November brought families together to hear renowned author David Bouchard share his stories and music. David was a hit with everyone. Also, David said he was so impressed with the support from our superintendent, assistant superintendents, secretary treasurer including numerous trustees in the audience.

Families attended from Port Renfrew Elementary, Milnes Landing schools and of course the Westshore schools. A bus was provided from the Langford area to assist families to attend the event. We had a full house with many families attending the event.

The evening began with Chief Russell Chipps acknowledging the Scia'new Nation territory. Elder Shirley Alphonse shared a few words of welcome to families and thanked the school system for the efforts to provide the best schooling for children. Drummers set the tone for the evening.

The Métis Nation of Greater Victoria assisted in the evenings acknowledgement of Louis Riel's historical impact on Canadian history. Paige Moran's jiggging demonstration was a hit with the many students attending the event.

The Family Fall Gathering evening also featured community services available for students and families. The School District PAC shared an awesome door prize and an invite to parents/guardians to get involved with school P.A.C.s. The Raven program shared many opportunities for youth. Many door prizes were awarded to children and families.

As generosity is a theme of each family event, I must thank all those that donated money to Baby Daniel's operation later in the month. I hear Baby Daniel is doing well.

Many thanks to numerous individuals who made the event a success. The list is long and the event's success is due to all the people who contribute to a successful event. See page 8.

## Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement: Report Two

The second report for our Aboriginal goals can be located on the district's website. The goals focus on academic achievement at all levels, sense of belonging, Aboriginal ways of knowing and Aboriginal languages. We have met many of our targets and the report features many initiatives that are making a difference for students.

## Celebrating Student Success

All families and schools are invited to Celebrating Student Success, April 18th starting at 5 p.m. The event will be held at Dunsmuir Middle School. Me to We student leadership will create an exciting event. Please add to your family calendar!

*Kathleen King-Hunt*

## Our Traditional Territories

School District Schools are located on two traditional territories:

- Coast Salish
- Nuu-chah-nulth

## Our three local First Nations Bands

Pacheedaht Nation – Port Renfrew

T'Sou-ke Nation – Sooke

Scia'new Nation – Beecher Bay

*'SD No. 62 On Reserve population is 14%' There are 945 Aboriginal students in our program this year!'*

## Métis Organizations

- Métis Nation of Greater Victoria
- Métis Community Services
- *SD No. 62 has 249 Métis students in our schools!'*

# Our Staff

## **Aboriginal Education Teachers**

**Norma-Jean May** – Belmont Secondary

**Kathy Sudlow** – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

**Justine Durrant** - Dunsmuir Middle

**Huw Griffiths** – Spencer Middle

**Chelsea Richardson** – Journey Middle

**Lisa Stuart** – Port Renfrew Elementary

**Marlys Denny** – Elementary E.S.D.

**Ana Galac** – Elementary E.S.D.

**Loni Skelton** – Westshore First Nations Grad Program

**Neal Donegani**— Port Renfrew Elementary

## **Aboriginal Education Support Workers**

**Trish McNabb** – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

**Lynn Ferguson** – Belmont Secondary

**TBA**— Lakewood/Millstream

**Dennis Warbrick** – Spencer Middle

**Tania Fetherston** – Poirier/ Saseenos Elem.

**Michelle Nahanee** – Journey Middle

**Edie Charley** – John Muir/Sooke Elem.

**Sherri Rose**—Westshore and First Nation Grad Program

**Murielle Lagace** – Happy Valley/Ruth King Elem.

**Derrick Titian**—Crystal View/Sangster Elem. & Dunsmuir Middle

**Laurie Gibson**— Pacific Secondary & MTC

**Sharon Bond** – David Cameron//Savory Elem..

**Gina Elliott**— Colwood/John Stubbs/Wishart Elem.

**Sharlene Rogers** – Hans Helgesen/Willway Elem.

**Pam Jones** – Port Renfrew Elementary

**Lavina Charles** – Halq'emeylem Language

**Shirley Alphonse**— T'Sou-ke Elder Project

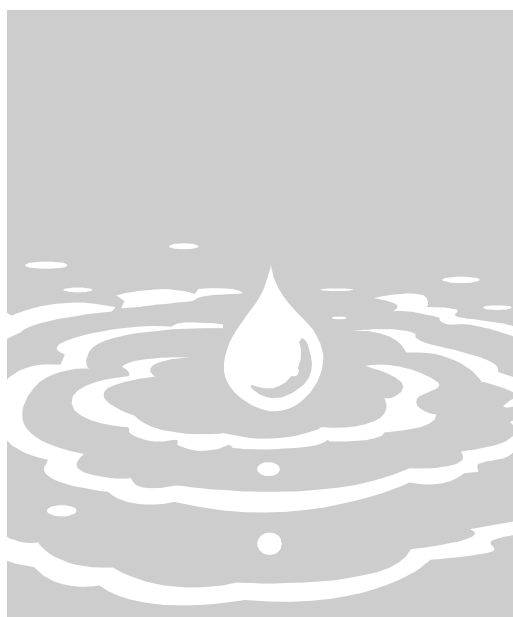
## **District Office**

**Kathleen King-Hunt** – District Principal

**Earleen Covey** – Secretary

## **Our Website**

[www.sd62.bc.ca/ aboriginal education](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/aboriginal%20education)  
(look forward to updates in 2012)



# Early Learning & Elementary News

## Journeys of the Heart

The Journeys of the Heart Program is now accepting new participants for the 2011/2012 school year.

As Aboriginal families, we believe that it takes a whole community to raise a child.

The Journeys of the Heart program helps families to build and strengthen their child's foundation. The staff of the Journeys of the Heart program work with the child and their families (at least one adult) to determine their child's individual learning styles to help make learning fun.

We believe that a child's identity is very important to their self esteem. We believe that children who have a firm sense of identity do better in school. Cultural identity is a key part of the Journeys of the Heart curriculum.

Let's work together and celebrate our Indigenous heritage while building our children's self esteem and knowledge base so that they may enjoy their lifelong learning experiences.

The program is free. We run Mondays and Wednesdays for a morning program 9:00 to 11:30am and an afternoon program from 1:00 to 3:30pm and siblings are welcome. The program is at Wishart Elementary School, S.D. No. 62.

We are ready, we just need you.  
To find out more about our

program or to register please contact:

**Julia Clifton (Early Childhood Educator)**

**384 9466 Ext: 250**

[JClifton@hulitan.ca](mailto:JClifton@hulitan.ca)

## Outreach StrongStart

Strong Start is a free program where children aged 0-5, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, can participate in organized sessions which include play activities, circle time, snack time, and activities that help develop gross motor skills.

**A Place to Play—Beecher Bay Strong Start** is at Hans Helgesen every Thursday afternoons. All Welcome!

Beecher Bay "A Place to Play"  
4901B East Sooke Rd  
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0  
Tuesday  
8:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Thursday Afternoons  
Hans Helgesen Elementary  
250 478-3431

**Port Renfrew Elementary - Strong Start**

6633 Deering Rd,  
Port Renfrew, BC V0S 1K0  
Phone: 250-647-5577

Wednesday & Friday  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



Michael Kusukug presented at Port Renfrew Elementary StrongStart as a part of the Ready, Set, Learn Program. Michael continues to provide fun and engaging reading sessions to students of all ages!

## B.E.A.R.

Westshore Rotary reads at Hans Helgesen weekly.

A new community library was unveiled in 2011!

Thanks to Westshore Rotary for the volunteering and generous donations to Scia'new library. A big Hych'ka to Sue Tonnesen for cataloguing all the books.

## Ready, Set, Learn Events

The Aboriginal Education Department hosts Ready, Set, Learn events at our early learning Aboriginal programs over the year. Please connect with one of the programs to see when the next presenter assist with school readiness through cultural presentations, song, dance, literacy and a lot of fun!

Here is a link to preschool readiness tips:

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early\\_learning/rsl/2009/rsl\\_english09.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/rsl/2009/rsl_english09.pdf)

# Elementary News

## COLWOOD, JOHN STUBBS & WISHART

My name is Gina Elliott, AESW. I have had the opportunity to work within these 3 schools for past couple of months. I am Coast Salish from the **nation in** Ladysmith, BC. During my days at each school, most of my time has been working within the classrooms supporting students with mainly Math, but also I have had the opportunity from time to time to facilitate Aboriginal activities, such as Aboriginal Arts and crafts and drum/sing. We also had the privilege of role models, Michelle Anderson and Scott Sam from Niltuo, come and do story teaching and drum/sing and Howard Lafortune for Aboriginal Art in Woodwork classes. This provided the students with hands on knowledge of local Aboriginal peoples and gave each student a sense of belonging. The teachers have been very supportive and its has been difficult to keep up with requests for in class presenters and role models but in this New Year we look forward to further role models to attend schools! I have provided lunch time activities for students when I have time. These activities include Aboriginal arts crafts such as salmon art for example, and soon dream catchers, etc.

Gina Elliott

## HANS HELGESEN

Miss Rogers is having lots of fun working with teachers and students. The lunch group students are colouring spirit Poles for a bulletin board scene. It's a pleasure and honour to have Laving Charles' a Beecher Bay Elder teaching Halq'emeylem language to students in the classrooms.

## WILLWAY

Miss Rogers is having lots of fun with her lunch group students. They are busy beavers making button blankets. Learning a bit about Métis Nation, and Halq'emeylem language to students in the classrooms.

## DAVID CAMERON

This year at David Cameron has been a busy, fun-filled year so far, I am new to David Cameron as well this year. The principal here is Mrs. Vivian Collyer, and VP- Mrs.Dale Jarvis. My time here is spent working with a large number of students with the majority of my students being in primary classes. I work with students, assisting in classrooms with all subjects.

My room is open at lunch to all students, where they are able to work on art activities, reading, working with beads, painting and occasionally the kids are treated to the animated First Nations Legends- Raven Tales.

This fall Miss Macdonald's Gr. 2/3 and Ms. Webber's gr. 4/5 class opened their classes to a visit from Leslie McGarry who shared with the primaries, Season and the Salish Calendar, and with the intermediates- Introduction to First Nations. Both sessions were enjoyed by all and the students actively participated in discussions following.

In December, David Cameron students and staff had a school wide vote on choosing a new mascot to replace the "David Cameron Raptors". The results of the vote will be revealed at an upcoming assembly, in which Elder Shirley Alphonse from the T'Sou-ke Nation, and singer/drummer Hudson Webster from the Ahousaht Nation will take part in a ceremony welcoming the new school mascot. Should be a fun-filled assembly! Sharon Bond— Nuuchah-nulth from the Ahousaht Nation on Vancouver Island.



## SAVORY

I have the pleasure of working with the wonderful staff at Savory, the principal is Mr. Klaus Benker. In September, Savory suffered an unfortunate situation of a fire and this ended up with part of the building being closed down as repairs took place. This portion of the school will be re-open this week and will give the staff and students the much needed space.

I have been getting to know the students here at Savory, and have worked with them on their academics, and I am anxious to start Culture Club during the lunch hour. This is open to all students, and it allows us to socialize, and work on various Aboriginal activities, such as art, sharing stories with Aboriginal content, and on occasion have role models from the community come in and share with us a little about their culture.

Miss Harvey's Grade 3\4 class will have an upcoming visit from the Cultural Liaison worker- Leslie McGarry from the Victoria Native Friendship Center. She will facilitate a three day workshop which will include a visit to the Royal British Columbia Museum.

We will also be visited by the Métis Community Services, Rebecca Mabee will share about the Métis People in Canada. Sharon Bond—Nuuchah-nulth from the Ahousaht Nation on Vancouver Island..





# Elementary News

## HAPPY VALLEY

Greetings from Happy Valley. My name is Murielle Lagace and this is my first year at Happy Valley. My role is to assist Aboriginal students to reach their full potential. I am Innu and French from Upper Quebec. I am at Happy Valley all day Monday and Thursday and in the afternoon on Tuesdays.

On Mondays, I have the privilege of working with three Kindergarten classes. The children are acquiring alphabet sounds, names and numbers. It is amazing to see the learning that takes place in the minds of these five year olds. They are so open to learning. The 'K's love playing 'fish' and this game called 'more'. I find myself continuing to assist the students in more basic learning skills math involves counting, grouping. The students also write in their journals about their week-ends. It is amazing to see the advancement from September to this time. Reading groups and individual one-one reading is also a big part of my daily work. In the other grades, I continue to assist students with their class work as well as some cultural projects. In grades four/five the social studies curriculum touches on First Nations studies where we have done different projects such as looking at the cycle of life of the salmon. We also created a village with long houses and totem poles.

On another note, our Family Fall Gathering was an absolute hit. Thanks to all the families who attended and if you missed it there will be another opportunity to celebrate with students at our Celebrating Students' Success night in April.

## RUTH KING

I am so happy and fortunate to be a Ruth King. I am in on Tuesday mornings; all day Wednesday and Friday. New little faces in Kindergarten all ready to learn their numbers letters and writing their name and so much more. It always amazes me how fast they learn. There is a large

number of Aboriginal students in grade one this year. And so, I spend much time in this class as they advance in their learning. I also assist with Little Buddies which involves Kindies and grade ones with the older grades. It is marvelous how attentively the wee ones look up to the older students. It also special to see the older students take charge, have patience, and of course a great boast to their self-esteem. We had three Christmas concerts this year. Ginger cookies were made by and for the grade four students. The grade fours also went all out to decorate the staff room for the staff luncheon. We also had our first Christmas store so the students could shop for presents for their families. The store was a great hit. Thanks once again for those who donated articles and helped sort and organize as well as wrap gifts. There were a few field trips this year. Some students went skating, swimming, as well as a trip to the Sooke museum. Lastly, I want to thank all the families at the Family Fall Gathering, you all made it a success. Be sure to attend our next function, Celebrating Student Success in April.

## CRYSTAL VIEW/SANGSTER

My name is Derrick Titian from the Nu chah nuulh Nation. I work with students at Sangster Elementary on Tuesdays and Crystal View on Thursdays. I must say I rather enjoy it seeing as this type of employment is fairly new to me (my first year). When I first started in September, I was nervous as ever. Once I figured out what I needed to do things started to flow smoothly.

The day I'm at Sangster Elementary I go from class to class to give the kids academic support throughout the day. The first class I sit with the grade six class and help them with language arts. The second class I go to is the grade four/five class and help the students with their math work. The third class I go to is the grade one class, during this time I do one on one support with a student. I either read with the student, go out to the playground or we go to the gym to kick

the ball around. During the kids lunch break, I have culture club for them. There we do things to do with First Nation culture. The month of October we worked on a project for the Family Fall Gathering which was held in November. I'm proud to say half the pictures that were on display were from Sangster! I'm also pleased to say that one of the students' parent said that her child chose to go to the Family Fall Gathering over another community and school function. It was great to see some of the students there. We also watched a couple of first Nation dad's, which the students enjoyed. We have played basketball, volleyball, and I watched them play soccer. In the afternoon, I go to the grade five class where we read as a group. My last class of the day I go to the grade three class, here I do one on one support with the student. I help with the reading or with the language arts class.

Back in October, I did a presentation for the grade two class, a class where there are no Aboriginal students. My presentation was on salmon, because they were learning about salmon. I told the students how the salmon life cycle works,, how there are a few different ways to cook salmon. I also brought examples such as jarred salmon, half smoked salmon, dried salmon. I told them we preserve it to use at potlatches. I also told them our First Nation name for salmon, and back in December one of the students came up to me and said she remembered the name for salmon, and to my amazement she remembered it. This is my fun-filled day at Sangster Elementary School.

## SASEENOS

Hello to all the parents/guardians I am enjoying working with this wonderful group of kids at Saseenos. We had a late start to culture club starting but now we are making up a storm of fun crafts. I would also like to thank Elder Shirley Alphonse for her hard work with the kindergartens. I could not do it without her. Tania Fetherston.

# Elementary School News

## MILLSTREAM

I am fortunate to be in Millstream on Fridays with a wonderful bunch of students! They are always so happy, smiling all the time.

Millstream was lucky to have Paul Hann in November, singing and creating with some of the students. Thank you Paul for making great memories and bringing much happiness to so many.

Family Fall Gathering was a fantastic success, thank you to families and staff that made the trip out to Hans Helgesen on such a stormy night.

Friday Health Hustles have been successful in helping our students being happier healthier individuals.

The remainder of the time in the school I am with the students in their classes working on reading, math projects they may be working on at the time or in the project room working on Culture Club with all my lovely kids who regularly attend. Sherri Rose

## ÉCOLE POIRIER

Culture Club started right away with a HUGE turn out. Love the kids at Poirier for always showing up and taking part. And to those students that if they had other things happening at lunch came and said, "Sorry Sherri, I have to miss today."

Our events happening at Poirier began October 5<sup>th</sup> with Cops for Cancer! Poirier raised a total of \$5247.96!! Way to go Panthers!!! Thank you to all the students and staff that shaved their heads for the cause. A great big thank you as well to Pure Elements for the being the head shavers!

The Great BC Shake Out on October 20<sup>th</sup> was a fantastic success, good job to everyone for being safe.

Halloween was so much fun! Costumes, dances and pumpkin carving!! We had a

pumpkin carving contest lots of kids brought in fantastic imaginative pumpkins a couple of our First Nations kids took home the prizes. Mayor Janet Evans was a guest judge! Thank you Janet for coming out.

Thank you to the Veterans that presented for Remembrance Day.

19 of our First Nations students went to Saseenos for Inuit story teller and artist Michael Kusukugak and his lovely wife. Thank you Saseenos for hosting; all the kids had a great time and loved participating.

Thank you, to all the families and staff that attended our Family Fall Gathering at Hans Helgesen on a blustery rainy night! It was standing room only for David Bouchard, an amazing presenter again! All of us at Poirier love him and could watch him over and over!

The entire school got to watch an extra special African dance and drum presentation by Vanildo and all of his friends. Vanildo among many others was part of the World Youth Organization. This program has over 30 years of experience coordinating programs for youth aged 17-29. Each participant is from one of Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America or the Caribbean. During the program the youth live with host families and volunteer in community organizations or small businesses. Vanildo was a volunteer at Poirier for several months. This kids loved him, he will be missed.

Some of the kids are making the transition from French to English and I have had the privilege of working with them. To watch them grow and learn in such great strides has been a great blessing. I hope they continue all their hard work!!

December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> all the Christmas concerts were held. Great job to all the

students for their fantastic performances! Makes me wish every day was Christmas so I could hear them sing all the time.

The last day before break had everyone, including teachers in their pajamas for celebrations and lots of snacking on yummy treats in class, watching Christmas movies and doing crafts.

I hope I covered everything, and that this segment has been informative for everyone. I look forward to the next newsletter.

Sherri Rose

## JOHN MUIR AND SOOKE

We've had a busy start of the year. Time flies, can you believe its already January 2012.

It's great to reconnect with the students, its exciting to meet and greet the new ones.

All kinds of events happened at both school such as basketball, choir, school dances, culture club, and more...

Welcome back to our respected elder Ms. Shirley Alphonse. She is teaching our kindergarten students the Sencoten language. I am thrilled to be a part of the program. I am learning along with the with the children, they are picking it up quite quickly. It is amazing to see this happen.

In September, I had sent home notices home, thanks to the parents/Guardians who replied back to me. For those of you who are new my contact information is as follows: **John Muir** Mondays and Tuesdays-all day, and Thursday-am. **Sooke** Wednesdays and Fridays-all day, Thursday-pm. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at either school. We are looking forward to having Aboriginal role model attend our school. They have a wealth of knowledge to share with us.

Edie Charley and Ms. Ana

# Elementary & Middle School News

## PORT RENFREW ELEMENTARY

This week I had the opportunity to go the Port Renfrew Elementary December potluck and community gathering. The pre-school students prepared a “Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See?” performance. The Pacheedaht Pre-School program has an early learning room at the elementary school. The pre-school displayed poster boards with play centre highlights and photos of children learning through play. The school-age children created their own version of the “Twelve Days of Christmas” featuring the local flair – wild woman of the wood, wolves, cedar trees and more. A big surprise was the ‘Bronx women’ who dropped in from New York performing a hilarious skit that had all ages in the audience amused and a tad shocked. It was all in good fun. The community brought a wonderful spread of ‘best recipe’ potluck dishes. The Port Renfrew students created a wonderful pizza soup. The event featured cultural component presented by Elder Shirley Alphonse. A heartfelt good-bye to teacher Alicia Ralph as she venture off to Africa to work on community development there. The PowerPoint created by Ms. Ralph and Ms. Lisa showed the variety of outdoor lessons and trips to the park, beach, skating rink, John Muir, and more. It was also nice to hear a community welcome from the new principal Mrs. Hedley-Smith. The new teacher Neal Donegani said hello to the community and received a warm welcome! It was nice to see Pacheedaht community and friends attend as well. It is an event in our district I try not to miss.

*Kathleen King-Hunt*

## FAMILY FALL GATHERING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Aboriginal Education Department Family Fall Gathering Committee: Gina Elliott, Murielle Lagace, Sharlene Rogers, Laurie Gibson, Edie Charley and Sharon Bond for organizing an engaging and memorable event.

Dignitaries presenting: Wendy Hobbs, Trustee Chair, Dave Betts, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Russell Chipps, Scia’new Nation, Elder Shirley Alphonse, Dianna Seaton, Emily Carr Project

Aboriginal Role Models: Chief Gordon Planes, Nathan Charlie, David Bouchard, Paige Moran, Raven Program representative, T’Sou-ke Nation Drummers, Bobbie Joe Catering.

Thanks to SPEAK our parent district P.A.C. for the wonderful door prize and information for families.

We would like to thank all the students who helped set-up and schools who helped decorate with Métis drawings for the feature wall. It is appreciated that so many students, families, teachers, support staff, dignitaries and community representatives joined us for our welcome back event. A special thanks facilities for the lighting set-up and to Hans Helgesen for guiding us on how to set up in your wonderful school!

Hych’ka

Kleco Kleco

Gilakas’la

Marsee



## Middle School News

### DUNSMUIR

I would like to say thank you to all the parents/guardians and students for all their hard work.

I am looking forward to starting the ceiling tile paintings again this year and mask making and many other ideas the students have thought of.

Tania Fetherston.

### JOURNEY

Here at Journey Middle School we have started off very busy. We have the opportunity to come to know Ms. Richardson who has taken over for Ms. Christianson who is on maternity leave. It has been wonderful getting to know Ms. Richardson as she has an amazing range of interests. She has worked in Japan and has fond memories of the schools over there. She is a wonderful addition to our team and even more so is that she is fluently bi-lingual and has ordered books in French to go read to the French immersion classes. During our lunch periods, she can be heard playing the guitar with students. Welcome Chelsea it is a great having you here and part of the Aboriginal team.

We started out right away on a wonderful and informative trip to Goldstream Park with an Elder from the Tsartlip Band. We also attended a Youth Conference in Langford. Chelsea and I held an Aboriginal ways of knowing exploratory where we explored all different aspects of Aboriginal ways of existing in the world. Once again, Journey had its annual Christmas Shoppe, it was an amazingly good time, and we were able to support a family through the

Sooke food bank. We also hosted a Christmas lunch that was so fun and we had Shirley Alphonse, a local T-Souke Elder come in to say a prayer and give a blessing and enjoy lunch with us. We look forward to a busy and exciting year here at Journey! Michelle Nahanee and Chelsea Richardson

### SPENCER

The All Nations room is the hub of our Aboriginal programs; Dennis opens the doors at 8am and creates a welcoming space through a safe place and warm food! Activities in the All Nation room include art activities such as drum making and paddle painting through to catered monthly lunches, each with a guest speaker.

To date, we have had three monthly lunches, one with guest speaker Shirley Alphonse, another led by Vice Principal John Lyall on the SD 62 Aboriginal enhancement agreement, and another with school Social worker Christa Green.

The All Nations room has organized relevant and fun field trips this year to: "Me to We" day in Vancouver Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, Bright Futures Community Planning Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup> and Traditional fishing at Goldstream Park Tuesday November As well, we have organized and presented in school presentations on: October 4<sup>th</sup>: Hoop Dance Ted Anderson presented a school wide presentation on Hoop dancing and the traditional teachings associated with the dance form. Ted then presented a hoop dancing workshop for interested students November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Inuit Storyteller Michael Kusugak presented to a group of forty Spencer Aboriginal students weaving traditional teachings with his personal experiences. Movie Mondays: last block Monday afternoons in the Achievement room, we have started showing Aboriginal films and short films. Dennis Warbrick



Hoop Dancing



Inuit Speaker

# Secondary School News

## BELMONT

Our Grade 12 students are busily preparing for graduation. Panic, disbelief and bargaining are part and parcel of the average day as the first term comes to an end. Many are beginning to realize that this is their last year. After all these years it's down to the wire and it comes as somewhat of a surprise to some. We are here to help! Remember! We aren't just familiar faces; we can move mountains if you are willing to help us help you. We have had some terrific guests so far this year including a wonderful lady who taught us how to weave cedar bracelets. We had information shared with us about the Métis and their vast contribution to Canadian history. We are grateful to Chief Russell Chipps for taking time out of his busy schedule by sharing his knowledge and expertise along with a newly made DVD about the Douglas Treaty with our grade 10 Social Studies class. We had a magical time when one of our guests shared how First Nations story telling is so important to our children and how each strand of the story is woven into a tapestry of knowledge, reviving their unique culture and beliefs. It was a treat to have Charlene George come to an afternoon art class and teach the students about Aboriginal Art. We had our door painted by one of our students, Dahlila Charlie. It's beautiful. Come and see. Another one of our students painted a clock face for us and we are proud to display his style in our room. We now have another project – making a run down book display case into a beautiful work of art by several students. I can't wait to see the outcome. Norma-Jean is back!! Welcome back to Belmont, Norma-Jean. We would like to thank all the terrific teachers, support staff and administration for all your help and dedication in improving the path to success for our students. Next term will be full of guests, new art projects and a mixture of pride and enthusiasm about "Who We Are" and "Watch us make a difference".

## EMCS

Welcome to 2012, we have had a busy start to the school year at Edward Milne! Kathy and I would like to welcome all the new students and all the grade nines here at EMCS. Edward Milne Community School continues to be a happening place, with a lot of positive energy and focus. Everyone is settling in nicely and doing their very best, Kathy and I are so very proud of each one of them. Keep up the good work kids! In October Gabby, Chelsea, Paige, Courtney, Kathy and myself went on a field trip to the 4 Points Inn, The Bright Ideas Conference. It was nice to see so many kids. Our amazing Culinary Arts program helped with our Christmas luncheon and a thank you to the two teachers Pia Carroll and Marion French. We had a wonderful turn out with a lot of hungry kids and thanks also to our guests, Kathleen King Hunt and Ann Welch. The EMCS Wolverines senior boy's basketball team recorded their first win of the season, game 1. Game 2, Brad Tajano-Smith and Ryan Albert each contributed nine points. Game 3, Chris Shankar was EMCS's top scorer with nine points, and Grade 10 Brad Tajano-Smith chipped in with seven. Keep up the good work Brad! We also had Tommy Happynook come and talk to our Aboriginal kids about Camosun College. Loved it, the kids had so many questions and if anyone needs more information, just call Camosun College and ask for Aboriginal Education Department. Please feel free to contact either Kathy Sudlow or myself Trish Mc Nabb if you have any concerns regarding your child here at Edward Community School.

[ksudlow@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:ksudlow@sd62.bc.ca) ; [tmcnabb@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:tmcnabb@sd62.bc.ca)



## PACIFIC

Hi, I am Laurie Gibson, I am working at Pacific Secondary School and MTC as a First Nation Support worker, and loving every minute of it. MTC it has been very neat to be able to spend time with student in the class room. we all went to ABL which was great fun. At Pacific Secondary we are making paddles with the grade 12, I have Chief Russell Chipps coming in and showing them how to carve and sand the paddles. They are looking so great; the kids have worked very hard and should be very proud of themselves. Sean and Cheryl are the grade 12 teachers, they are so wonderful they let me turn their classroom into a woodworking room



Thank-you. I am also involved in the Girls group with Heather (Principal) which we have just finished making sugar cookies and ginger bread cookies for our big Christmas dinner which was so wonderful. There was a great turn out and awesome food the students and staff had a great time. Wendy Hobbs was at the dinner Great Job girls for all the cookies! I have got some girls starting a button blanket in Blair's classroom. They are doing a great job. Thanks Blair. We have got some great artists here at Pacific Secondary. I just want to say thank-you to Heather (Principal) and Paul (Vice Principal) for making my job so fun and for all their help. Thank-you Catherine for all your help.

Laurie Gibson

## Secondary School News

### WESTSHORE FIRST NATION GRAD

This semester has been a busy one, as they all seem to be. And as this is my last entry, I wanted it to be a collaborative effort with the students. This is what Aboriginal Education has been doing here at WestShore through the comments of our students.

We have had the honour of Grandma Lee Charles come in every Monday for Hul'qumi'num language class. This has students feeling ***"closer to our community and our culture."*** Though some of the sounds have been nearly impossible to make, all of us have found joy and excitement in practicing. ***"Being able to speak also listen to my own culture with my own grandmother is awesome!"*** We have even adorned the classroom in posters displaying the words and pictures to help us remember.

As a way to honour Indigenous ways of learning, we have Monday morning Breakfast as well. This started with toast and jam, and has led to more elaborate recipes using: leeks, zucchini, pears, apples and carrots from the fruit and veggie program. From sausage hash to blackberry pear crumble, we share the work, clean-up, and merriment from being together. One Student wrote: ***"Every Monday morning they make breakfast for us which I really like as well. It brings all of us students together like a family; even some of us are family!"***

***"It was freaking amazing! And for the past two weeks some students in the class have taken time off lunch and math class to measure the school make a cardboard model of it then measure how much gingerbread we need and make some difficult stairs out of cookies."***

***It helps students learn step-by-step geometry principles and that helped make math not so difficult."***

The gingerbread house project was a fun way to do math. It was fun and we got to do something other than just sit and write. While doing this project we were walking, measuring, baking and constructing the whole thing. But, instead of it being a house, it was in the shape of our school.



We had to go outside and get all the measurements. I like the way the school can change a boring class into something that is really interesting and fun!"

Murray Campbell has come in with the skill, respect, and patience of a true mentor. Through his guidance, students have transformed pieces of wood with pride.

"I have done four carvings so far. This last one is an Eagle. I have also done a Thunderbird and a Killer Whale."

The other animal that has inspired us is the monkey, and more specifically the Sock Monkey. We have spent the last few Fridays creating little monkeys from socks by filling them with stuffing and hope.

The hope that we have filled our monkeys with have been little pieces of paper with our strengths and hopes written on them. One student stated

***"I've never sewed this much in my life, I'm gonna be a master by the time I'm done!"***

We have continued to grow and achieve the goals laid out by the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. With the many methods and role models our students belong and achieve using their ways of knowing and in their own words.

***The one thing I like doing most in First Peoples English or on my own time is writing poems. . . it's great, I love writing my heart out even if it's a broken hearted poem, I still love it because it is written by me no one else. I've written about how much***

***awesome West Shore Annex is with all the people all around me and its great to be here. . . I wouldn't want to leave; that's how much I love this place!"***

Karen Whetung

### One last elementary school:

#### LAKEWOOD

I have had the great pleasure of working at Lakewood Elementary! What a fantastic school. It is a well-organized and cheerful place to be. The students are respectful and well-mannered.

Each month the school chooses a virtue as a focus for work with students. Grade Three students read the virtue on the morning announcements, describing the virtue and how to practice it. November they learned about 'Peacefulness'. "We practice peacefulness because it helps to create a calm mind free from worry. When we are peaceful, we respect others and their differences".

Family Fall Gathering was a fantastic gathering; everyone loved the presentation as well as the Indian Tacos! Christmas Celebration of Diversity was a huge success at each of the showings! Good job kids! Lakewood has fantastic sports teams for kids to choose from. The volleyball teams have had a great season. Their skill level has shown huge improvement over the past few months. Thanks to Mr. Feenstra, Mrs. Leakey and Mrs. Stobart for coaching the teams. Both teams played very well at the Jamboree held at John Stubbs. Congratulations to them for their great performance. Swim Club - This club started Thursday, October 14 and continues each Thursday after school; Dec. 1, Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb., 2, 9, 16. Drama Club Students are in the process of rehearsing their assigned roles for our Fine Arts Club Production in May, 'Beauty and the Beast'. They sound fantastic! I can't wait to see the show. Sherri Rose



## Schools

Visit the District  
Resource Centre  
for numerous  
Aboriginal titles to  
use for the  
classroom teaching



*Westshore First Nation Grad Artwork*

B

O

O

K

M

A

R

K

### Strong Reader Tools

*When I look at the cover of my book,  
my brain searches for information  
about...*

1. What I know for sure...

2. What it reminds me of...

3. What I wonder...

4. What I can now predict  
the book is going to be about...

*As I'm reading my book...*

5. I can stop reading when my brain  
says, "Hey! That didn't make sense  
when"...

6. I can search my brain for  
information that isn't in the book,  
this will help me to understand the  
book better...

7. I can say what the most important  
pieces of information are...

8. I can make pictures in my brain or  
see a movie of the book in my brain...

*After I've finished reading my book...*

9. I can now say how my thinking has  
changed from my prediction and  
I can retell the book...



## Upcoming Events

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### Aboriginal Career Fairs

February 9th

- Pacific Secondary morning at 109-1830 Island Hwy. Victoria
- EMCS afternoon at 6218 Sooke Rd.

February 10th at VNFC

Contact Lalita David for details:

Lalita David Phone: 250-853-3729

Email: [inafclo@uvic.ca](mailto:inafclo@uvic.ca)

### Métis Nation of Greater Victoria

Every third Wednesday evening the MNGV hosts a community potluck at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

## Welcome ...

- *Welcome back teacher Norma-Jean May to Belmont.*
- *Welcome back Sherri Rose, AESW.*
- *Welcome to teachers Huw Griffiths, Chelsea Richardson, Marlys Denny, Ana Galac and Neal Donegani.*
- *Welcome to AESW Derrick Titian to our department!*

## Math Mania Night - all families welcome!

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Edward Milne Community School, 6218 Sooke Rd.

Hosted by UVic, Sooke Literacy and T'Sou-ke Nation



## Fall/Winter Edition

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## Submissions

If you would like to submit artwork or poems to the  
Aboriginal Education Newsletter please forward your  
submissions to [ecovey@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:ecovey@sd62.bc.ca)

Earleen Covey (Aboriginal Education Department Secretary)

*Thanks to the Aboriginal Education Staff for  
the newsletter submissions!*



**Cut the coupon below – return to your school office to  
send to Kathleen King-Hunt at the SBO.**

Yes, I have read this newsletter with my family!

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Department. One coupon per family is fine.

A book prize will be forwarded to your school by ?

Name(s):

School:

Grade:

Return this coupon to your school's office to be forwarded to the SD62  
School Board Office.

Attention: Kathleen King-Hunt, District Principal Aboriginal Education